

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A retail system comprising:
an advance ordering system for enabling a customer to order a purchase in advance,
at least one storage facility for storing goods available for ordering, and
multiple purchase obtaining facilities remote with respect to the storage facility, for
enabling the customer to obtain the ordered purchase delivered from the storage facility after
receiving an order for the purchase from the customer,
the purchase obtaining facilities include at least one drive-through purchase obtaining
facility for enabling the customer in a vehicle to pick up the ordered purchase delivered to the
vehicle,
the drive-through purchase obtaining facility including:
multiple pick-up stations, each of the pick-up stations being arranged for enabling
the customer in the vehicle to pick up the ordered purchase delivered to the vehicle, and
an identification station for receiving identification (ID) data provided by the
customer, and
a control system for receiving the ID data from the identification station to
automatically assign station responsive to identification (ID) data provided by the customer for
automatically assigning a pick-up station of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer in order
to increase throughput of the drive-through purchase obtaining facility when the customer arrives
to pick up the purchase ordered in advance.

2. (Original) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility where the ordered purchase is picked up is remote with respect to a location for placing the order.

3. (Currently Amended) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the control system station is configured for assigning the pick-up station for obtaining the purchase that was ordered before the customer arrives at the purchase obtaining facility.

4. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the ID data identifies the customer.

5. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the ID data provides information on the placed order.

6. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility further comprises a service facility for handling purchases delivered from the storage facility.

7. (Currently Amended) The retail system of claim 1 [[6]], wherein the control system station is responsive to the ID data of the customer for issuing providing the service facility with a request to deliver the ordered purchase to the pick-up station assigned to the customer.

8. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the control station enables the customer to enter the drive-through purchase obtaining facility only after the customer is identified.

9. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the drive-through purchase obtaining facility further comprises at least one check-out station for enabling the customer to check out the ordered purchase without leaving the vehicle.

10. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the pick-up station is released from being assigned to the customer after the ordered purchase is obtained.

11. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 9, wherein the check-out station enables the customer to exit the drive-through purchase obtaining facility only after the ordered purchase is checked out.

12. (Previously Presented) The retail system of claim 1, wherein the pick-up station includes a check-out arrangement for enabling the customer to automatically check out the ordered purchase.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of selling goods, comprising the steps of:
storing the goods available for sale in a storage facility,
enabling a customer to order a purchase,
providing a drive-through purchase obtaining facility remote with respect to the storage
facility and having multiple pick-up stations, each arranged for enabling the customer in a
vehicle to pick up the ordered purchase delivered to the vehicle, ~~and~~
receiving identification (ID) information from the customer that arrives at the drive-
through purchase obtaining facility to obtain the ordered purchase, and
transferring the ID information to a control system for automatically assigning to the
customer a pick-up station ~~one~~ of said multiple pick-up stations ~~and issuing a request to deliver~~
the ordered purchase to the assigned pick-up station in response to the ID information
~~in response to information provided by the customer when the customer arrives at the~~
~~drive-through purchase obtaining facility.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said pick-up station ~~one~~
~~of the multiple pick-up stations~~ is assigned to the customer in response to ID data identifying the
customer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the [[a]] request to
deliver the ordered purchase to the assigned pick-up station ~~one of the multiple pick-up stations~~
is generated simultaneously with assigning said pick-up station ~~one of the multiple pick-up~~
~~stations.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said pick-up station one of the multiple pick-up stations is assigned to the customer in response to ID data identifying the ordered purchase.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the [[a]] request to deliver the ordered purchase to the assigned pick-up station one of the multiple pick-up stations is generated simultaneously with assigning said pick-up station one of the multiple pick-up stations.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of enabling the customer to check out the ordered purchase without leaving the vehicle.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of releasing the pick-up station from being assigned to the customer after the ordered purchase is obtained.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of enabling the customer to automatically check out the ordered purchase at said pick-up station one of the multiple pick-up stations.

22. (Currently Amended) A drive-through retail facility for enabling a customer in a vehicle to make a purchase without leaving the vehicle, the retail facility comprising:
multiple purchase pick-up stations,

an identification station for receiving identification (ID) information from the customer that arrives to obtain the purchase ordered in advance, and
a control system for receiving the ID information from the identification station to automatically assign a pick-up station of said multiple purchase pick-up stations to the customer in order to increase throughput of the retail facility when the customer arrives to obtain the purchase ordered in advance.

and an assignment arrangement for automatically assigning one of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer in response to ID information provided by the customer.

23. (Currently Amended) The facility of claim 22, wherein the control system is configured for issuing a request to deliver the ordered purchase to the assigned pick-up station in response to the received ID information the pick-up stations enable the customer to obtain the purchase ordered in advance from a remote location.

24. (Currently Amended) The facility of claim 22, wherein said control system assignment arrangement is configured to automatically assign said one of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer in response to ID data identifying the ordered purchase.

25. (Currently Amended) The facility of claim 22, wherein said control system assignment arrangement is configured to automatically assign said one of the multiple pick-up stations to the customer in response to ID data identifying the customer.

26. (Currently Amended) The facility of claim 22, wherein said control system ~~assignment arrangement~~ is configured to release said one of the multiple pick-up stations from being assigned to the customer when the customer obtains the purchase.